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Monday, July 16, 2007

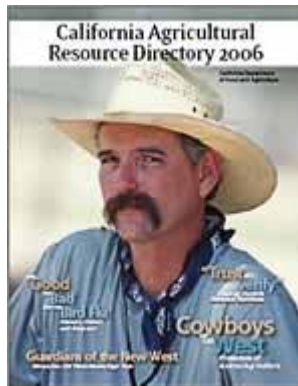
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A.G. on Ag
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A.G. on Ag - California Agriculture Updates - March 2007

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The [2006 CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE DIRECTORY](#) is now available online. It includes California's agricultural statistics for production year 2005; a closer look at the department's Animal Health and Food Safety Services; and a directory of agricultural contact information.



Secretary Kawamura discusses trade issues with (L-R) Dr. Gord Surgeoner (President, Ontario Agri-Food Technologies), Mr. Rene Cardinal (Director, Canadian Food Inspection Agency) and Ms. Anne Fowlie (Executive Vice-President, Canadian Horticultural Council).

To highlight the valuable partnership between California and Canada, Canadian Consul General Marc LePage of San Francisco and the Silicon Valley and Consul General Alain Dudoit of Los Angeles, co-hosted "Canada Day in California" on March 19, 2007. The event was a celebration to strengthen California-Canada trade relations. Canada is California's second largest trading partner and single largest importer of our agricultural products.

For more than 180 years, California and Canada have enjoyed a broad, deep and longstanding commercial relationship, especially in the agricultural sector. And that relationship continues to expand. Currently, Canada is the third largest customer for California exports--behind Mexico and Japan, but ahead of China. In 2005, the two-way California-Canada trade totaled approximately \$30.5 billion. Of that, \$2.1 billion comes from California agricultural exports, helping make Canada second only to the European Union as a buyer of California agricultural products.

Dr. Gord Surgeoner, President of Ontario Ag-food Technologies, gave a presentation on biofuels and also incorporated some interesting facts about healthy eating. Rene Cardinal, Director of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, talked about on-farm food safety and Anne Fowlie of the Canadian Horticultural Council, discussed on-farm food safety for fruits and vegetables. Considering that biofuels and food safety are such hot topics in California right now, I was fascinated to hear our Canadian neighbor's innovative ideas on these issues.

In the spirit of "Canada Day," [Governor Schwarzenegger announced that his trade mission to Canada is on May 29-31, 2007](#). The trade mission will feature several agricultural aspects such as a promotional visit to a supermarket and a tour of the Ontario Food Terminal.

As always, thank you for your support. Feel free to contact my office with any questions or concerns.

A.G. Kawamura

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(Photos: CDFA)

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